

## NEW RECORDS OF BUTTERFLIES (LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIOIDEA AND PAPILIONOIDEA) FROM BERNIER ISLAND, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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### Abstract

The butterflies *Trapezites argenteornatus insula* (Waterhouse), *Papilio demoleus sthenelus* W.S. Macleay, *Junonia villida calybe* (Godart) and *Zizina labradus labradus* (Godart) are recorded from Bernier Island.

### Introduction

Bernier Island (24°48'S 113°09'E) is located at the north-western limit of Shark Bay about 50 km west of Carnarvon. The island, which is 26 km long and 2.5 km wide at its widest point, is derived from Pleistocene coastal limestone. While the western side is bordered by steep limestone cliffs, the eastern coastline is characterised by beach dunes which give way to a relatively flat central plateau most of which is overlain with compacted reddish sandy soil. The plateau vegetation is dominated by a *Triodia plurinervata* grassland with patches of *Acacia coriacea* and *A. ligulata*, while the eastern coastal sand dunes support a *Spinifex longifolius* dominated association. In September 1992 we recorded four species of butterflies from two sites on the eastern side of the island. Voucher specimens are lodged in the Insect Collection of the Department of Conservation and Land Management. Common and Waterhouse (1981) do not specifically record any butterflies from Bernier Island. Records of *Papilio demoleus*, *Danaus chrysippus* and *Anaphaeis java* from Bernier Island (Dunn and Dunn 1991) relate to specimens collected by R.D. Hughes in May 1963 and lodged in the Australian National Insect Collection (Laurie Dunn, *pers. comm.*).

### New Records and Notes

*Trapezites argenteornatus insula* (Waterhouse).

Five specimens were taken at Red Cliff Bay on 11.ix.1992. The species was common on beach sand dunes within 200 m of the sea, where the habitat was dominated by *Spinifex longifolius*. Individuals were flying low over the vegetation between 1100 hours and 1400 hours.

*Papilio demoleus sthenelus* W.S. Macleay.

Several individuals were seen flying over beach sand dunes at Boulder Point and on the central plateau on 12.ix.1992. No specimens were taken.

*Junonia villida calybe* (Godart).

Two specimens were collected at Boulder Point on 12.ix.1992, on beach sand dunes within 300 m of the sea. The vegetation was dominated by *S.*

*longifolius* and low *Pileanthus limacis* shrubs. Individuals of this species were also observed flying over the sea as much as 500 m from the island.

*Zizina labradus labradus* (Godart).

Common at Boulder Point on the tops of beach sand dunes within 300 m of the sea. Three specimens were collected on 12.ix.1992 in habitat dominated by *S. longifolius* and *P. limacis*.

### Acknowledgments

Greg Keighery of the Department of Conservation and Land Management identified *Pileanthus limacis* specimens from Bernier Island. Samantha Hillcox of Cardiff University assisted with collection of some specimens.

### References

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